

MILITARY POSTS.

Assistant Secretary of War Starts Out on a Tour of Inspection.

He Will Visit Fort Crook and the Military Department of Dakota, Columbia, California and Texas—Col. Robinson Retires—Lieut. Baxter Promoted.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Assistant Secretary of War Meikeljohn left here Thursday night on a tour of inspection of military posts in the west. Since his appointment early in the spring Mr. Meikeljohn has been on duty without intermission at the war department where he has made a most favorable impression by his courtesy and promptness and energy in the dispatch of public business. The assistant secretary goes direct to St. Louis, where he will inspect the post of Jefferson barracks and visit the site for a rifle range for the Jefferson barracks troops and adjacent posts which has been offered for sale to the department. The next stopping place will be Fort Leavenworth, Kas. Mr. Meikeljohn will visit Omaha, where headquarters of the Department of the Platte are located and will fully inspect Fort Crook near that city. Before his return to Washington he expects to visit also the headquarters of the military department of Dakota, Columbia, California and Texas, and such intermediate army posts and stations en route as can be inspected conveniently within the time limited for his trip, it being the purpose of the assistant secretary to familiarize himself as fully as possible with army life, and some of the more important military matters that come before him for official action. Before returning to the war department, Mr. Meikeljohn intends to visit his home in Nebraska for the purpose of attending to some private affairs that demand his consideration and to cast his vote in the coming election in that state.

On the Retired List.

Col. Augustus G. Robinson, assistant quartermaster general, will be placed on the retired list of the army, on his own application, under the 40 years service clause. He is a native of Maine and was graduated at the military academy in 1853. He was transferred from the artillery branch to the quartermaster's department in 1863 and served throughout the war.

His retirement and the promotions consequent thereon leave a vacancy in the list of captains and assistant quartermasters which was filled Thursday by the appointment of First Lieut. John Baxter, jr., Ninth cavalry.

Long Bicycle Run.

Lieut. H. D. Wise, United States army, started from the east front of the capitol at 5:10 o'clock Thursday morning on a bike for New York. He goes via Baltimore, Wilmington and Philadelphia and hopes to break the record between this city and New York, and reach his destination in 24 hours. He was paced by single riders between here and Philadelphia and between the latter city and New York will be paced by tandem teams of the New York Athletic club.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—United States Consul Smyth, at Carthage, in a report to the state department says that as a result of the new United States tariff, a most notable increase has followed in the shipment of ivory nuts from that port to the United States. The new tariff on vegetable ivory buttons has caused the crude article to be shipped to the United States instead of to Europe where it was formerly largely manufactured into buttons.

EVANGELINA CISNEROS

Offered a Home by Mrs. Martha M. Purdy, of Kansas.

CHICAGO, Oct. 15.—Evangelina Cisneros, who has just escaped from the narrow walls of a Cuban prison, has been offered a home on the wide prairies of Kansas, where the barbed wire fences are the only suggestions of a trocha.

The woman's auxiliary of the Cuban committee met at the home of Mrs. Martha M. Purdy and discussed Cuban affairs, congratulating each other on the escape of Miss Cisneros, in whose interest the society had petitioned the pope and queen of Spain for clemency.

In the midst of the rejoicings Mrs. Purdy announced that she wrote to Miss Cisneros in New York, offering the young refugee a permanent home with her father and mother, Mrs. George M. Munger, in Greenwood county, Kansas. Mr. Munger now lives near Eureka, where he has a large fruit farm.

Mr. Munger lived for a time in Cuba, where he has many friends and acquaintances, and he speaks Spanish fluently. He and his wife are much interested in the Cuban question.

Was it Murder or Suicide?

BALTIMORE, Md., Oct. 15.—Matthew Rogers, a grocer at 136 West Randall street, and Mrs. Ida Wright, his mistress, were found dead in Rogers' house Thursday morning. Both had been shot. The police look upon it as a case of murder and suicide, but Rogers' relatives insist that it was the work of a former admirer of the woman. Her husband is living and is thought to be in West Virginia. The only other person in the house was a daughter of the dead woman, who knew nothing of the tragedy until awakened several hours after it occurred.

Condemned Tea.

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 15.—Francis Sealey, government tea inspector, condemned 830 chests of tea which arrived from the Orient on the steamship Monmouthshire. Several days ago he condemned 422 chests consigned to a Chicago firm. The entire lot was found to be old, trashy tea unfit for use.

Gold Found in Wisconsin.

JANESVILLE, Wis., Oct. 15.—Gold has been found in Rock county, within eight miles of Janesville. Two farmers were in the city Thursday with samples of gravel taken from the farm which showed gold in fair quantities.

FIELD'S RESIGNATION

Accepted By President McKinley With Kindly Expressions of Regard.

Justice Field Resigns Because of the Duties of His Office Becoming Too Arduous for His Strength—His Judicial Career Covers Many Years of Service.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—The following letter was given out Thursday afternoon:

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 12, 1897. Dear Mr. Chief Justice and Brethren:—Near the close of last term, feeling that the duties of my office had become too arduous for my strength, I transmitted my resignation to the president, to take effect on the first day of December next, and this he has accepted, with kindly expressions of regard, as will be seen from a copy of his letter, which is as follows:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Oct. 10, 1897."

"HON. STEVEN J. FIELD, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Washington, D. C.—My Dear Sir:—In April last Chief Justice Fuller, accompanied by Mr. Justice Brewer, handed me your resignation as associate justice of the supreme court of the United States, to take effect December 1, 1897."

"I hereby accepting your resignation, I wish to express my deep regret that you feel compelled by advancing years to sever your active connection with the court which you have so long been a distinguished member."

"Entering upon your great office in May, 1863, you will, on the first of next December, have served upon the bench for a period of 34 years and seven months—a term longer than that of any member of the court since its creation, and throughout a period of special importance in the history of the country, occupied with as grave public questions as have ever confronted that tribunal for decision."

"I congratulate you therefore most heartily upon a service of such exceptional duration, fidelity and distinction. Nor can I overlook the fact that you received your commission from Abraham Lincoln, and graciously spared by a kind Providence, have survived all the members of the court of his appointment."

"Upon your retirement both the bench and the country will sustain a great loss, but the high character and great ability of your work will and long be remembered, not only by your colleagues, but by your grateful fellow-countrymen."

"With personal esteem and sincere best wishes for your contentment and happiness during the period of rest which you have so well earned, I am, dear sir,

"Very truly yours,

"WILLIAM MCKINLEY."

My judicial career covers many years of service.

Having been elected a member of the supreme court of California, I assumed that office October 13, 1857, holding it for five years, and then, for five days, the latter part of the time being chief justice.

On the tenth day of March, 1863, I was commissioned by President Lincoln a justice of the supreme court of the United States, taking the oath of office on the twentieth day of the following May.

When my resignation takes effect my period of service on this bench will have exceeded that of any of my predecessors, while my entire judicial life will have embraced more than 40 years. I may be pardoned for saying that during all this period, long in comparison with the brevity of human life, though, in the retrospect it has gone with the swiftness of a tale that is told, I have not shunned to declare in every case coming before me for decision the conclusions which my deliberate convictions compelled me to arrive at, by the conscientious exercise of such abilities and requirements as I possessed.

It is a pleasant thing in my memory that my appointment came from President Lincoln, of whose appointees I am the last survivor. Up to that time there had been no representative here of the Pacific coast. A new empire had risen in the west whose laws were those of another country. The land titles were from Spanish and Mexican grants, both of which were often overlaid by the claims of the first settlers. To bring order out of this confusion, congress passed an act providing for another seat on this bench, with the intention that it should be filled by some one familiar with these conflicting titles and with the mining laws of the coast, and as it so happened that I had formed the principal of these titles, and was moreover, chief justice of California, it was the wish of the senators and representatives of that state, as well as those from Oregon, that I should succeed to the new position. At their request Mr. Lincoln sent my name to the senate and the nomination was unanimously confirmed.

At the head of the court, when I became one of its members, was the venerable Chief Justice Taney, and among the associate justices was Mr. Justice Wayne, who had sat with Chief Justice Marshall, thus constituting a link between the past and future, and, as it were, binding into unity nearly an entire century of the life of this court.

During my incumbency three chief justices and 16 associate justices have passed away, leaving me precious remembrances of common labors and intimate and agreeable companionship.

The volumes of our reports show that I alone have written 620 opinions. If to these are added 17 opinions in the circuit court and 265 prepared while I was on the supreme court of California, it will be seen that I have voiced the decision in 1,045 cases.

These many years have indeed been years of labor and of toil, but they have brought their own reward; and we can all join in thanksgiving to the Author of our being that we have been permitted to spend so much of our lives in the service of our country.

With profound respect and regard, I am, my dear brethren,

Very sincerely and always yours,

STEPHEN J. FIELD.

Following is the court's reply:

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, Oct. 13, 1897.

Dear Brother Field—We are profoundly moved by the letter in which you announce to us your retirement from the bench. The termination of a judicial career of such length and distinction can not fail to inspire among all your countrymen, and indeed, wherever the realm of jurisprudence extends, a keen sense of loss which to your colleagues assumes the aspect of a personal bereavement.

For the intimacy necessarily incident to the conduct of work so constant, so exacting, and of such vital importance as ours, inevitably draws us together by ties of the closest character, which can not be dissolved without emotions of deep sadness and regret. We feel that our parting involves not simply the deprivation of the assistance afforded by your learning, your vast experience, and your earnestness in advocacy of your convictions, but the severance of those relations which have contributed so much to lighten the hardest labors of the road.

This is not the time or place to dwell on the reputation you have achieved as a jurist. The record is made up and may safely be committed to the judgment of posterity.

But we can not part with you as an active member of the court without the fervent expression of the hope that you may be spared for many years to enjoy the repose you have so thoroughly earned and the commendation bestowed on good and faithful service.

The Conference Was a Failure.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Oct. 15.—The effort to adjust the difference between the coal operators of Kanawha valley and their men has failed absolutely, and President Ratchford left Thursday night for Columbus, disheartened over his failure.

Ex-Senator Jones' Remains.

PENNSACOLA, Fla., Oct. 15.—The remains of ex-United States Senator Charles W. Jones, arrived here from Detroit, Mich., Thursday morning. The funeral services were held in the afternoon at St. Michael's Catholic church, which was crowded.

THEATER DOME

In Robinson's Opera House, Cincinnati, Falls During a Performance.

Three Persons Instantly Killed and Many Wounded, Some Fatally, in a Panic That Followed—The Play Billed for Next Week Was "Under the Dome."

CINCINNATI, Oct. 16.—At the beginning of the first act of "Dangers of a Great City" at Robinson's opera house, Friday evening, there was a sharp crack in the ceiling of the theater, and a piece of plastering a foot long and three inches wide fell into the orchestra from the east side. Many of the audience started to their feet, but there was no further intimation of trouble.

At the end of the second act the stage hands were setting the scenes, and little Alice Opie, child specialist, was in front of the curtain doing her act as "Yellow Kid." Suddenly and without further warning, the huge dome of the theater fell with a dead crash onto the chairs, a distance of a hundred feet.

A panic ensued. Women screamed, men groaned and the most frightful scenes were enacted. The little child actress ran behind the curtain, and all lights were extinguished by the breaking of the main electric wire. In five minutes ten patrol wagons and as many fire engines and ladder companies were surrounding the opera house, and a howling mob was rushing about interfering with the work of rescue.

Capt. Conway and his salvage corps, who were first on the scene, seized half a dozen bodies, and not stopping to see whether they were dead or alive, galloped off with them to the hospital. As fast as the patrol wagons arrived they were filled with limp bodies and rushed to the hospital.

While the excitement was at its height another crash came. It was the entire ceiling tearing away from the rafters and tumbling down upon the mass of struggling humanity below. It sounded like a whirlwind and the noise was heard for a square around. Hundreds rushed to the front of the building on the outside, but were met by the streams of people rushing from the inside and driven back across the street. Many were crushed under foot.

A man named Goldberg, living at 642 Barr street, was carried into the drug store of Al Boehmer at Eighth street and Central avenue. He had a fractured skull and was taken to the city hospital; will die.

Mrs. George Kleeman died at the hospital at 10 p. m. She was the daughter-in-law of Nick Kleeman.

Pearl Hall, of 817 Sycamore street, daughter of carriage-maker on East Ninth street, was badly hurt and taken to the hospital.

Henry Fleck, 602 Broadway, in balcony, and two children have not been heard from. They are not at the hospital.

A daughter of George Otte, of the water works department, is at the hospital, seriously injured.

Samuel Rosenbaum, agent 16, of the Working Boys' home, on Sycamore street, was in the gallery. He is at the hospital in a dangerous condition.

The following are in the hospital more or less seriously injured: Della Algeier and her three children; Mrs. J. and Daisy Fairhead, S. E. Long, Mary Scudder, of Newport, Ky.; Grace Connors, C. J. Weiss, Will Morton, aged 17, Sixth and Broadway, jumped into a pit. Fred Jenks, aged 26, 1216 Richmond street; T. C. Wiley, Dayton, Ky.; W. J. McCabe, Clint Edell, Jacob Weil, Mary Hess, John White, Amelia Weil, Mary Howe, Mary Moorman, Twelfth and Clay streets.

The dead are: An unknown man, Miss Lucy Cohen and Mrs. Geo. Kleeman.

The show being played was "Dangers of a Great City." The show underlined for next week was "Under the Dome."

The cause of the accident Friday night seems to be easily discovered. Among the first who entered the building after the dome had fallen was President George W. Rapp, of the Cincinnati Chapter American Institute of architects.

"It was not that dome," said he, pointing to the huge heap in the center of the floor, "that caused the trouble. The fault lies with the roof trusses. The house has been built more than 25 years, and the wood has shrunk until the bolts and nails afforded the smallest possible security. One of these trusses had rotted away from its fastenings; it has parted and thrown the two sections down, and they in their descent pulled the dome with them. These wood trusses are of pine and they shrink very perceptibly in the course of years. They should be examined every five or six years. Modern structures are put up with steel trusses. The roof of this theater is liable to come down any minute."

Friday night's disaster recalls forcibly a more fearful one which took place in the same building in February, 1876. Friday night there was a real cause for the panic and loss of life; then there was no cause whatever except the wickedly foolish cry of fire started when a little sputtering hiss came from the calcium light in the upper gallery. The house was packed mostly with women and children to witness an allegory of America given by hundreds of school children.

Revolutionary Talk in Canada.

MONTREAL, Oct. 16.—An organization, known as the Canadian Independence club, has issued a manifesto which was distributed throughout the city Friday, stating that the time had come for Canada to throw off its connection with England.

Wanted Greenbacks Exchanged for Gold.

NEW YORK, Oct. 16.—The Bank of the British North America imported \$500,000 in gold a few days ago, and Friday they sent the gold to the sub-treasury asking for greenbacks in exchange. The treasury officials declined the proposition.

A MIGHTY FEAT.

Iron Bridge Replaced by One of Steel in Two and One-Half Minutes.

The Span Was 242 Feet Long, 25 Feet Wide and 30 Feet Deep—Nearly 1,700 Tons of Steel and Iron Moved a Distance of at Least 25 Feet.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 18.—The feat of replacing an iron bridge span 242 feet long, 25 feet wide and 30 feet in depth with one of the same dimensions of steel was accomplished in this city Sunday in two minutes and 33 seconds. In this space of time nearly 1,700 tons of iron and steel were moved a distance of 25 feet, and there was not a slip or a hitch in the entire proceedings. This remarkable feat of engineering was accomplished at what is known as the connecting railroad bridge over the Schuylkill just above Girard avenue. It is the bridge that bears the tracks of the New York division of the Pennsylvania railroad, the busiest division of the Pennsylvania system.

The time set for the replacement was the 48 minutes intervening between the passage over the bridge of the Chestnut Hill accommodation trains leaving Broad street station at 2:47 p. m. and at 3:35 p. m.

A work train crossed the eastern end of the bridge and stopped. The gangs of trackmen began to unscrew the rails of the westbound track on the old span. This done, the grapples of the work train took hold of the ends of the rails, the engine started up and the entire length of rails, 242 feet, was snaked off in short order.

Meanwhile four stationary engines, one at each end on a level with the bridge foundations and another at each end on scows securely moored at the base of the bridge piers, were puffing and emphasizing their readiness for the task they had to do. There was said to be less than a hundred horse power represented in these four engines, yet so well was everything arranged that they moved the leviathan without any apparent overexertion.

Then the signal was given for the little stationary engines to assert themselves. It seemed as if they all started at the identical instant. There was a tightening of the cables, an almost imperceptible creak of a wheel somewhere, and the big bulk began to move northward. It was like clockwork.

As the edge of the iron span began to show beyond the bridge piers the crowds on the north side of the river set up a shout, and as the breadth of the new steel span began to disappear behind the piers the crowds on the southern coigns of vantage also joined in the cheer, and almost before the cheer had died away the mighty feat had been accomplished. In just two minutes and thirty-two seconds from the time of starting the engines the new span occupied the exact position from which the old one had been removed.

CHARLES A. DANA.

The Famous Editor of the New York Sun, Passes Away, Surrounded by His Family.

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.—Charles A. Dana, editor of the New York Sun, died at his home in Glen Cove, Long Island, at 1:20 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Dana's death had been expected for several hours, and his family and physicians were at his bedside when the end came. His condition had been such for several months that the members of his family kept themselves in constant readiness to go to his bedside at any moment. On Saturday morning he had a relapse, and it was apparent that recovery was impossible. Several times, however, he rallied, but toward night he began to sink.

During the night there were feeble rallies, but they did not last long. Sunday morning it was seen that the end was but a few hours off, and his attendants remained almost constantly at his bedside. The end came quietly.

CHARLES A. DANA.

The extreme heat of Saturday and Friday had much to do with hastening death. On Friday Mr. Dana showed signs of distress, and everything possible was done to relieve him. He had been weakened by his long illness, and during the summer was several times thought to be on the verge of a fatal collapse, but each time rallied. He did not improve much with the coming cooler weather and the sinking spells became more frequent.

On Friday Mr. Dana was able to take only the lightest nourishment and this condition continued. Paul Dana and his sisters, Mrs. Draper, Mrs. Underhill and Mrs. Branan were at his home on Saturday morning and were warned to remain there. They were at the bedside when death came.

Heavy Snowstorm.

DENVER, Oct. 18.—A special from Crested Butte, Col., says: A snowstorm struck this locality 36 hours ago which has broken all records here for this time of the year. In addition to 36 hours of continuous downpour it is still snowing, with no indication whatever of a letup.

Durrant Breaking Down.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—Theodore A. Durrant, the convicted murderer of Minnie Williams and Blanche Lamont, whose fate depends upon the action of the supreme court of the United States is reported to be breaking down.

WINDSOR, N. S.,

Almost Completely Destroyed by Fire—Nearly Four Hundred Buildings Burned—Loss \$3,000,000.

HALIFAX, N. S., Oct. 18.—Historic Windsor, one of the most beautiful towns in the province, was devastated by fire Sunday morning. For six hours, beginning shortly before 3 a. m., the fire, fanned by a violent northwest gale, raged so fiercely that the local fire department was absolutely helpless to cope with it and within half an hour after its discovery the mayor began to call for outside assistance. Long before noon the town had been eaten up almost completely, the area covered by the flames being nearly a mile square, and of the four hundred or more buildings that occupy the section, barely half a dozen scorched structures remain. Among the buildings that escaped are the Windsor cotton factory, King's college, the Anglican church, the Edgehill School for Girls and the Baffin hotel.

The total loss is estimated roughly at \$3,000,000. While a number of the heaviest losers are partially insured and some of them pretty well covered, the total insurance is calculated to be not more than half a million.

British Output of Steel.

LONDON, Oct. 18.—The Times announces that the British output of steel during the first half of the year 1897 was 2,350,927 tons, the largest output ever known for a similar period in the history of Great Britain or of any other European country.

Alleged Train Robber Acquitted.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 18.—John F. Kennedy, who has been on trial in the criminal court for the past week charged with being the leader of the Chicago & Alton passenger train robbery at Blue cut in December last, was acquitted Sunday.

Postcard Breaking Down.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—Theodore A. Durrant, the convicted murderer of Minnie Williams and Blanche Lamont, whose fate depends upon the action of the supreme court of the United States is reported to be breaking down.

WINDSOR, N. S.,

Almost Completely Destroyed by Fire—Nearly Four Hundred Buildings Burned—Loss \$3,000,000.

HALIFAX, N. S., Oct. 18.—Historic Windsor, one of the most beautiful towns in the province, was devastated by fire Sunday morning. For six hours, beginning shortly before 3 a. m., the fire, fanned by a violent northwest gale, raged so fiercely that the local fire department was absolutely helpless to cope with it and within half an hour after its discovery the mayor began to call for outside assistance. Long before noon the town had been eaten up almost completely, the area covered by the flames being nearly a mile square, and of the four hundred or more buildings that occupy the section, barely half a dozen scorched structures remain. Among the buildings that escaped are the Windsor cotton factory, King's college, the Anglican church, the Edgehill School for Girls and the Baffin hotel.

The total loss is estimated roughly at \$3,000,000. While a number of the heaviest losers are partially insured and some of them pretty well covered, the total insurance is calculated to be not more than half a million.

British Output of Steel.

LONDON, Oct. 18.—The Times announces that the British output of steel during the first half of the year 1897 was 2,350,927 tons, the largest output ever known for a similar period in the history of Great Britain or of any other European country.

Alleged Train Robber Acquitted.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 18.—John F. Kennedy, who has been on trial in the criminal court for the past week charged with being the leader of the Chicago & Alton passenger train robbery at Blue cut in December last, was acquitted Sunday.

Postcard Breaking Down.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—Theodore A. Durrant, the convicted murderer of Minnie Williams and Blanche Lamont, whose fate depends upon the action of the supreme court of the United States is reported to be breaking down.

WINDSOR, N. S.,

Almost Completely Destroyed by Fire—Nearly Four Hundred Buildings Burned—Loss \$3,000,000.

POSTAL SERVICE.

There Are 1,164 Railway Postal Lines, Manned by 7,854 Clerks.

There Are 42 Steamboat Lines With 57 Clerks—Grand Total of Miles Traveled by All Classes of Service 282,830,031—Pneumatic Tube Mail Service.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—An abstract of the annual report of the general superintendent of the railway mail service follows:

At the close of the year there were 1,164 railway post office lines, manned by 6,854 clerks; 33 electric and cable lines, with 103 clerks; 42 steamboat lines, with 57 clerks, making total number of lines 1,239, and total number of clerks 7,013. In addition to these there were 311 clerks assigned to duty at important junctions and depots, and 238 detailed to clerical duty in the various offices of the service, making a grand total of 7,562 clerks.

The miles of railroad covered by railway post office car service was 154,225; of electric and cable, 303, and of steamboat lines, 7,459. The grand total of miles traveled of all classes of service was 282,830,031. There were 634 whole cars in use and 175 in reserve, and 2,026 apartments in cars in use and 540 in reserve.

The number of pieces of all classes of mail matter distributed on the cars during the year was 11,571,540,680, exclusive of registered matter and city mail. Of registered matter there were 16,256,663 pieces in all. The amount of city mail distributed for stations and carriers during the year aggregated 462,469,640 pieces. The increase of ordinary mail handled over the previous year was 3.7 per cent. A comparative table covering a period of 10 years shows that there has been an increase in the amount of mail handled of 77.2 per cent and increase in the working force of 48.6 per cent.

There were 559 casualties during the year, in which 14 clerks lost their lives, 33 were seriously and 75 slightly injured. This is a larger number of casualties and fatalities than has occurred during any previous year since the organization of the service. The passage of a bill for the relief of the families of clerks killed in the line of duty; of clerks injured and unfitted for service permanently, or temporarily, and for the retirement on partial pay of clerks who have served so long as to be unfitted for service, has again been urged.

The annual report of W. S. Shallenberger, second assistant postmaster general made public Sunday night gives an interesting review of the principal developments in the entire postal transportation service of the United States and connecting foreign mails. It shows an aggregate of appropriations for this large part of the postal service for the current year of \$51,041,238; the probable deficiency is \$300,000, making the estimated expenditures this year \$51,541,238. This will be \$1,623,045, or three and one quarter per cent more than for the fiscal year just closed. The estimate for the fiscal year, 1899, is \$53,357,260, which is \$1,796,021 more than the estimated expenditure for the current year. The annual rate for the inland mail service in the year just closed was \$49,862,074, and for foreign mail service \$1,791,170, after deducting \$258,029 for intermediary service to foreign countries.

Last year there was only one pneumatic postal tube in operation in the country, that in Philadelphia. Since then four more contracts have been executed in Philadelphia, New York, Boston and between New York and Brooklyn.

Concerning this new postal feature Gen. Shallenberger reports: "It is quite possible to carry second, third and fourth class matter as well as first, when it can be made profitable. Extensions to stations several miles distant from the main office, eventually, will save clerical force as well as expedite delivery in distant cities from 12 to 24 hours. The most important source of revenue to the department will be the large increase of local correspondence and special delivery letters. The extension of the tubular system will be necessarily slow and probably confined to populous centers."

WINDSOR, N. S.,

Almost Completely Destroyed by Fire—Nearly Four Hundred Buildings Burned—Loss \$3,000,000.

HALIFAX, N. S., Oct. 18.—Historic Windsor, one of the most beautiful towns in the province, was devastated by fire Sunday morning. For six hours, beginning shortly before 3 a. m., the fire, fanned by a violent northwest gale, raged so fiercely that the local fire department was absolutely helpless to cope with it and within half an hour after its discovery the mayor began to call for outside assistance. Long before noon the town had been eaten up almost completely, the area covered by the flames being nearly a mile square, and of the four hundred or more buildings that occupy the section, barely half a dozen scorched structures remain. Among the buildings that escaped are the Windsor cotton factory, King's college, the Anglican church, the Edgehill School for Girls and the Baffin hotel.

The total loss is estimated roughly at \$3,000,000. While a number of the heaviest losers are partially insured and some of them pretty well covered, the total insurance is calculated to be not more than half a million.